

THE NEW ARK SCHOOL

JAN 06 1981

"The Complete Learning Experience"
3 Irvine Turner Boulevard
Newark, New Jersey 07103



TO: Marilyn Silva
Division of Youth and Family Services
FROM: Kinaya Mathews
The New Ark School

(201) 624-4890

RE: Proposed Fee Schedule for Child Care
DATE: December 30, 1980

JAN 06 1981

KINAYA C. MATHEWS
Administrator

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Educational Director

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Parent


Upon reviewing your proposed fee schedule, I find the following irregularities:

- 1) Fees are the same for part-time and full-time programs. This is inequitable
- 2) As implementation of said fee schedule will incur additional costs to provider agencies, either the maximum allowable cost of care should be increased or agencies should be provided with additional monies to cover additional administrative costs
- 3) In reference to the use of excess monies to meet other needs within the Region, how will the Division determine if an agency has an excess and who will expand child care services within the provider's region - the provider or DYFS? DYFS should not use provider monies to expand its own services.
- 4) The Collection schedule (p.4) should be uniform and based on each agency's ability to collect (either once per month or once per week - not both)
- 5) The fee scale is imbalanced and inequitable:
 - A. Special consideration should be given to those individuals who are in school or in training full time and not receiving welfare benefits. The proposed scale will force these individuals to become welfare recipients in order to continue child care services. This is directly in opposition to the Title XX goal of promoting self-sufficiency.
 - B. All families falling within a given SMI category should be charged the same fee (i.e. all 35% SMI families should be charged X dollars per week)

- C. The calculation of fees should be based on some percentage of annual income. In the proposed scale, a family of one receiving \$577 per year would have to pay \$260 per year for child care services which is 45% of their income. Conversely, a family of seven receiving \$23,963 per year would have to pay \$1664. per year which is 7% of their income. This is, again, inequitable.

Based on the irregularities cited above, which I feel are excessive, I am recommending that implementation of this policy be postponed until needed improvements and revisions are made. In addition, I understand that Essex County was not represented when the schedule was developed. Accordingly, I am requesting that a meeting be scheduled which will include DYFS, the PDB, and Essex County representatives to air out grievances in reference to this policy. Also, I urge you not to remove any more child care monies from the system because of the additional monies the collection of fees will generate. Finally, it has been known for some time that DYFS has a double standard policy regarding state sponsored centers vs. community sponsored centers. State sponsored centers have a guaranteed match and their staffs receive higher salaries. As there is no difference in the type of service provided, this double standard must stop.

Sincerely,



Kinaya C. Mathews
Executive Administrator

cc: Assemblyman Willie Brown
Senator Wynona Lipman
Assemblyman Jim Zangari
Freeholder Pearl Beatty